

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SUMMER 2012 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES

A PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND OTHER RELATED SCHOLARS

The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (PAS), Addis Ababa is responsible for recruiting and selecting qualified professionals to be part of this program. We are currently accepting applications for the **2012** academic year. The application deadline is December 15, 2011.

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Scholars is an intensive post-graduate level academic program with integrated study tours the purpose of which is to provide university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, and institutions. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

The tours will take place at various colleges and universities throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in June 2012. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program website to obtain general information about the Institutes. The website address is: <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

2. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

A. The Institute on American Politics and Political Thought

This program will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of U.S. political institutions and major currents in American political thought. The institute will offer an overview of political thought during the U.S. founding period (constitutional foundations), and the development and current functioning of the American presidency, congress, and federal judiciary. The examination of political institutions will include the electoral system, political parties and interest groups, the civil service system, media and think tanks, and the welfare/regulatory state. The institute will address modern political and cultural issues in the United States (including but not limited to civil rights, women's rights, immigration, etc.) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy. The institute program will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

B. The Institute on Contemporary American Literature

This program will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American literature. Its purpose is twofold: to explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres; and to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary American society and culture. The program will explore the diversity of the American literary landscape,

examining how major contemporary writers, schools and movements reflect the traditions of the American literary canon. At the same time, the program will expose participants to writers who represent a departure from that tradition, and who are establishing new directions for American literature. The institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville.

C. The Institute on Journalism and Media

This program will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism faculty and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the role of journalism and the media in U.S. society. It will examine major topics in journalism, including the concept of a free press, First Amendment rights, and the media's relationship to the public interest. The legal and ethical questions inherent in journalistic endeavors will be incorporated into every aspect of the institute. The institute will cover strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the trade: researching, reporting, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight technology's impact on journalism, addressing the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other advances in media that are transforming the profession. The institute will be hosted by Ohio University.

D. The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States

The program will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach and drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Participants will examine the following aspects of religious pluralism in the United States: the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the diversity of contemporary religious beliefs and its impact on American politics. The institute will be hosted by the University of California at Santa Barbara.

E. The Institute on U.S. Culture and Society

The program will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society, and the ways in which these cultures have influenced both social movements and historical epochs throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base, and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society. The institute will be hosted by New York University.

F. The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy

This program will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will focus on United States Foreign Policy making through an exploration of domestic politics and players with emphasis on how each entity shapes U.S. perspectives and action on international issues. The four-week academic residency program will be complemented by two weeks of study tours of diverse loci of foreign policy-making: including Chicago and Washington, DC. The Institute program will also include day trips to Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee, and historic St. Augustine. The institute will be hosted by the University of Florida.

3. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be aware that they are applying for an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program.

4. CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (non-profits, think tanks, etc.). While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the institute.

B. The ideal candidate will also be an experienced professional with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme.

C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour and be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. PAS encourages candidates who are disabled, and women to apply for the program. Please be advised that the Study of the United States Institutes are highly competitive.

5. CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, PAS requests that each candidate provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience. In addition, candidate statements should describe the candidate's capacity/plans to amplify the impact of the institute beyond just their own knowledge and research. PAS invites eligible

candidates at your institution to submit applications. The applicant must declare the particular academic programs in which he is interested in focusing and should tailor his/her personal statement to the appropriate program in the application form. Bio data of the applicant should be attached to the personal statement.

6. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY:

It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions.

English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute, both for your participant and participants from other countries.

7. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION:

Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have no prior or limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties.

Please send your application to the attention of the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy. If you have any questions relating to the application process, please feel free to contact the U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Specialist Ato Yohannes Birhanu at Yohannes.Birhanu@state.gov. We look forward to receiving applications by December 15, 2011, and extend best wishes to all candidates!